

FITCHBURG PUBLIC LIBRARY
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
MINUTES
January 11, 2023

Fitchburg Public Library
610 Main Street, Fitchburg, MA

Trustees present were: Chair Matthew Bruun, Cynthia Jones, Jacalyn Kremer, Eric Mbunwe, Dennis Pierce and Jim Walsh. Also present were Director Deb Hinkle and Assistant Director Jean Tenander.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:31 p.m.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES of December 14, 2022

The minutes of the December 14, 2022 meeting were approved.

CHAIR'S REPORT

Chair Bruun said he and Director Hinkle had met with Jim Hohman of First Financial regarding the trust funds. Jim Hohman said they were down roughly 15 percent. He recommended using stocks if we needed some short term money.

Chair Bruun said he had spoken to a Fitchburg resident who was interested in becoming a member of the Board of Trustees. She is a professional librarian.

LIBRARIAN'S REPORT

Director Hinkle said she is holding a staff meeting this coming Friday. There will discussion of the publicity surrounding the move and an opportunity to see some of the literature that will be available to help the public understand what will be happening to the building itself and how their use of the Library will be affected during the interim period.

She said the hope was to complete the construction in the temporary space by the end of February and then move in and re-open sometime in March.

Next week she and Tony Deluzio will walk through the new space with the contractors.

She said there is a local Legislative breakfast on Feb. 17 in Lancaster. March 15 is Legislative Day in Boston which she is hoping to attend.

Because a few of the dates for holiday closings in 2023 were unclear, the Trustee vote on the 2023 holiday closings was postponed until the next Trustee meeting.

Director Hinkle said since we have not yet found and hired a part time history librarian, she is thinking for now of replacing the part time circulation person we lost and continue our search for a librarian to work on local history.

Director Hinkle said she was moving discussion of the Ethnic Heritage Room out of Old Business and bringing it up in the Librarian's Report where it belonged.

There was a general conversation about the disposition of the contents of the cabinets in the Ethnic Heritage Room and of the cabinets themselves. The Historical Society has shown an interest in obtaining the cabinets if we were thinking of discarding them.

After discussing various options it was decided that the Library would review the contents of the cases and keep those items which seemed appropriate for the Library to retain. It was decided to contact Saima Park and Amelia V. Galluccio-Cirio Library to donate appropriate items to their relevant collections. Remaining items as well as the cabinets themselves will be donated to the Historical Society.

The Ethnic Heritage room chairs were also discussed. They are designed by Eero Saarinen and if in good condition quite valuable. Jacalyn Kremer is going to talk to someone who might know whether these particular chairs in the condition they are in, are worth trying to sell. We could also keep them for now and decide when we are in the new space if we want to keep them or dispose of them in whatever is the most appropriate way for the Library.

The last item in the Librarian's report was the vote to extend the Financial Development Agency contract. The FDA has given Director Hinkle a detailed outline of the things they have accomplished so far and those projects which are ongoing or still to commence.

The general feeling was that the contract should be extended and that we are moving into an important part of our campaign and we will need to do whatever we can to maximize our fundraising. Director Hinkle meets with them on a regular basis and they are in contact with the Fundraising Committee. The Trustees felt the FDA was doing a good job.

A motion was made and approved to extend the FDA contract.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance Committee- Director Hinkle and Chair Bruun met with Jim Hohman of First Financial.

Building Committee- There was a discussion of the Owner's Project Requirements (OPR). A motion to approve the current OPR was made and accepted after making 3 changes.

1. It was agreed the Library is not a suitable building to be used as an emergency shelter.
2. The Trustees do not want the Library to have a "full load" generator, and
3. "Mechanical and electrical rooms" should not just be "heated and ventilated" but should be air conditioned and dehumidified as well.

These were unanimously agreed upon.

Nominating Committee-

There was no report.

NEW BUSINESS

There was no New Business.

OLD BUSINESS

There was no Old Business.

AJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:03 p.m.

Respectfully submitted
by Jean Tenander
for Cynthia Jones